

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:JJSISCO/BK

7/26/73:EXT.29588

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R 272216Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T STATE 148467

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT

REF: KABUL 5546

FOR NEUMANN FROM SISCO

1. WE, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING VERY CAREFULLY YOUR REPORTS OF YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE NEW LEADERS OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. I REALIZE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO SEEK DETAILED ADVICE FROM YOU, AND THIS HAS REQUIRED YOU TO BE RESPONSIVE, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE, INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP YOU HAD WITH THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND A BREAK IN PAST PRACTICES MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD.

2. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED IN YOUR MOST RECENT REPORT (KABUL 5546), YOU ARE BEING PUT IN RATHER TICKLISH SPOT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE SPECIFIC ADVICE, PRIMARILY OF AN INTERNAL CHARACTER, WHICH IS BEING SOUGHT.

3. I LEAVE IT UP TO YOU AS HOW TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION.

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HOWEVER, WHILE CONTINUING MAINTAIN GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC

POSTURE WITH NEW REGIME, I THINK IT PREFERABLE THAT YOU SEEK TO GET YOURSELF IN A POSITION WHERE MISSION IS IN SOMEWHAT LESS FORWARD POSITION AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT,

WITH THE INITIATIVES ON ADVICE CLEARLY COMING FROM NEW REGIME.

4. I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT THIS OBSERVATION IS MOTIVATED BY ANY DESIRE ON OUR PART FOR AN ARMS LENGTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ON THE CONTRARY WE ARE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN CONTINUING GOOD AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE SOVIETS MAY FEEL THAT PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MORE PROPITIOUS TO THEIR OWN POLICY THAN UNDER THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, WE CLEARLY NEED TO AVOID GETTING INTO SITUATION WHERE WE MAY BE ASKED FOR SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-THROUGH OF KIND WE WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO DELIVER. WHILE WE MAY AT SOME POINT WISH TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN FURTHER WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN, RESPONSIBILITY AT THIS POINT (AS YOU HAVE RIGHTLY SUGGESTED) RESTS WITH DAUD REGIME TO LAY THEIR NEIGHBORS' FEARS TO REST BY THEIR OWN ACTIONS.

5. YOU MAY BE CERTAIN THAT WE WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE INCLUDING MEASURES YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE IN CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE EVOLUTION OF REGIME'S POLICY TOWARD SOVIETS. WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN KIND OF INFLUENCE WE HAVE HAD IN RECENT YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN. ROGERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE148467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JJSISCO/BK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750008-0476
From: SS NEA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973076/aaaaadzn.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 KABUL 5546
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIONS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AF, US
To: KABUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005